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Morning News: Cause of Germanwings Flight 9525 Crash Remains Unclear

Written by Paul Brady • March 25, 2015



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A Germanwings Airbus A319.



The cause of the crash remains unclear as investigators begin their work in the French Alps.

The cause of the crash of Germanwings Flight 9525 in Southeastern France is still unclear, as authorities said that all 150 people aboard were likely killed. Among those were 16 teenagers and two teachers returning from a week-long study program in Barcelona and two Americans, according to reports. Investigators have recovered the cockpit voice recorder, which should provide useful information about the moments preceding the crash. ([AP](#) and [NYT](#))

“One of the main outstanding questions is why the pilots did not communicate with air traffic controllers as the plane began its unusual descent, suggesting that either the pilots or the plane’s automated systems may have been trying to maintain control of the aircraft as it lost altitude,” Dan Bilefsky and Nicola Clark report. ([NYT](#))

Germanwings, which has been operating since 2002 and a part of Lufthansa since 2009, had an excellent safety record, as Cynthia Drescher reports. ([Condé Nast Traveler](#))

The TSA has now enrolled more than a million people in its Pre✓ program that makes airport security less of a hassle. ([USA Today](#))

Emirates will launch nonstop service between Dubai and Orlando on September 1. It will be the airline’s tenth U.S. destination. ([USA Today](#))

Viking Cruises christened 12 new ships and announced that it had six more in development for launch in 2016. The company now has a fleet of more than 60 vessels, up from 28 in 2012. ([Cruise Critic](#))

At least two tour operators have announced Game of Thrones packages, timed to the start of the show’s fifth season on April 12. Adriatic Luxury Journeys is taking its guests to Croatia for a seven-day trip from \$1,495 per person. Zicasso will visit filming locations in Spain on a seven-night trip from \$1,899 per person.

Disney Cruise Line will visit for the first time destinations in the U.K., on a British Isles itinerary launching in the 2016 season. ([Disney Cruise Line](#))

Haimark Line, a cruise company founded in 2013, will launch sailings on the 210-passenger MS Saint Laurent on May 3, with a sailing from Portland, Maine to Montreal. (This ship is also being sold under the brand Great Lakes Cruise Company, as [we reported in February](#).) In September, Haimark’s newly built, 12-suite RV Mekong Princess will start trips in Cambodia and Vietnam. And in October, the RV Amazon Discovery will launch in Peru.